

Appl. No.: 10/555,819

Second Preliminary Amdt. Dated January 17, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings by replacing original sheet 2 containing Figs. 5 and 6 with the enclosed Replacement Sheet 2 containing amended Fig. 5 and original Fig. 6.

In the enclosed Replacement Sheet 2, in Fig. 5:

-- The incorrect reference numeral "2" designating the first elastic part has been corrected to "11";

-- The incorrect reference numeral "3" designating the brace has been corrected to "2"; and

-- The incorrect reference numeral "4" designating the second elastic part has been corrected to "12."

Fig. 6 has not been changed.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS:

The amendments in the substitute specification, drawings, and claims include no new matter. Care has been taken to confirm that the amendments to the claims include no new matter and are supported by the original specification.

In the Claims. In this Second Preliminary Amendment, original claims 1-5 have been cancelled, and new claims 6-12 have been added, all in order to more clearly define the invention under U.S. rules and practice.

In the Drawings. In the drawing amendment as shown in the enclosed Replacement Sheet 2, in Fig. 5, the following changes have been made:

- A. In Fig. 5, the incorrect reference numeral "2" designating the first elastic part has been corrected to "11."
- B. In Fig. 5, the incorrect reference numeral "3" designating the brace has been corrected to "2."
- C. In Fig. 5, the incorrect reference numeral "4" designating the second elastic part has been corrected to "12."

These changes have been made in order to better comport with U.S. rules and practice by eliminating the use of a given reference numeral to designate more than one feature.

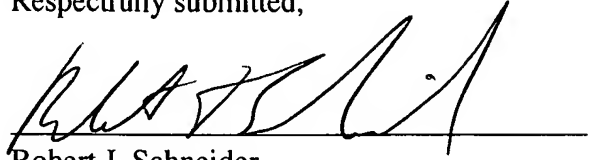
In the Specification. In the specification, four new paragraphs have been added to discuss known prior art, and other paragraphs from the original specification have been rearranged. The specification also has been amended to better comport with U.S. rules and practice by eliminating the use of a given reference numeral to designate more than one feature. In accordance with the drawing amendments above, the specification has been amended to properly refer to the drawings as amended.

Correction of Inventorship and Assignment Information in the Application Data Sheet. In the enclosed Supplemental Application Data Sheet, the inventorship has been corrected, and the names of all of the assignees have been properly listed. It is noted that the Initial Application Data Sheet filed November 4, 2005, had incorrectly designated Hui LI and Linmo JIANG as inventors. There is only one inventor, namely, Rongde LI. An Assignment of the invention by the sole inventor Rongde LI was executed on January 12, 2006, and was recorded at Reel/Frame 018292/0588 on September 22, 2006. This Assignment assigned ownership of the invention jointly to the three individual persons Hui LI, Linmo JIANG, and Rongde LI.

Request for Extension of Time and Deposit Account Charge Authorization. Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the attorneys for Applicant(s) at the direct number (312) 845-3919 with any questions that arise in connection with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Schneider', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Schneider

Reg. No. 27,383

Date: January 17, 2007
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